

Remarks

Claims 18 and 19 were allowed in the Final Office action mailed December 13, 2006, while the remaining claims under consideration were rejected. In response, (1) allowed claims 18 and 19 have been retained in the application, (2) the dependency of rejected dependent claims 12-17 and 20 has been changed so that these claims depend (directly or indirectly) from allowed claim 18, (3) new dependent claims 21-27, corresponding respectively to dependent claims 12-17 and 20 but depending directly or indirectly from allowed claim 19, have been added, and (4) rejected independent claim 11 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Since all of the claims presented for consideration have either been allowed or depend from an allowed claim, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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